

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAMMONTON: SONS OF ITALY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, October is Italian Heritage Month, a time where we celebrate the culture and contributions of our beautiful Italian American community. Hammonton, South Jersey is famous not only for their blueberries, but their deep Italian roots and heritage too. Recently had the honor of attending Hammonton's annual Columbus Day event, where the Sons of Italy recognize a local family that has had an impact on the community. The Sons of Italy in Hammonton do their utmost to preserve the Italian culture, heritage, and history that is so special to the community. It was a privilege to present them with a Congressional Proclamation, in recognition of their dedication to the Hammonton Community, and on such a special day for Italian Americans. I thank them for the work their organization does, not just for the Italian community, but for every Hammontonian. God Bless Sons of Italy, and God Bless America.

HONORING MAYOR NICK PROCTOR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a local leader and dedicated public servant who I am proud to call a friend—the outgoing Mayor of Howell, Nick Proctor.

Mayor Proctor's ties to Howell stretch back to his ancestors when they first set down roots in the mid-19th century. First elected to the city council in 2013, he's served as the city's mayor for the last seven. With an agenda focused on economic vibrancy, he's been a key partner of the Howell Downtown Development Authority and the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce in the effort to revitalize Michigan Avenue. Thanks to his vision of a combination of economic development and historic preservation, Howell was honored in 2018 with the Great American Main Street Award—a national recognition for achievements in transforming the downtown district into a cultural destination.

In this era of great challenges and uncertainty, it's been a comfort to know that Howell has had a calm, level-headed mayor with firsthand experience in crisis management. He's been a champion for every resident of Howell—presiding over a city council that unanimously approved the first anti-discrimination ordinance aimed at protecting LGBT and other individuals in Livingston County.

Last year, when he opted not to seek another term, he reached out via email to all of the candidates—both before and after the pri-

mary—making himself available to discuss issues confronting the city. And while some may see his comity as a bygone relic, Mayor Proctor would tell you that collegiality is integral to who he is. He's a public servant first, committed to the mission at hand.

He learned this as a former official with the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. In his role as a security attaché, he traveled the world, including stops in Germany, Sri Lanka, Jordan, and Japan. Later on, he served as Head of Global Security for British American Tobacco, based out of London. Needless to say, Mayor Proctor has seen the world and brought back a unique perspective to the good folks of Howell.

His ability to see things from different points of view is one of his greatest skills, and I appreciate his words as Congress has worked to pass an infrastructure bill. Last month, he was quoted as saying: "Infrastructure has no political affiliation. We need to come together to serve the people."

It's a message that folks in Washington would do well to heed—we were sent here to put our constituents first, just like Mayor Proctor has for the better part of a decade. I'll miss working with him—particularly given our backgrounds in national security—but I know he's earned a relaxing retirement filled with occasional travel, a good book, and watching the latest ice hockey or college football game.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, it's my privilege to honor Mayor Nick Proctor so that my colleagues in the People's House may know that Mayor Nick Proctor made a difference.

MAINTAINING U.S. ECONOMIC
COMPETITIVENESS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of economic competitiveness.

This is an economic issue that the President has prioritized in his efforts to build back better, recognizing that promoting competition can lower prices for families, increase wages for workers, and promote innovation and even faster economic growth. On July 9, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on "Promoting Competition in the American Economy," which stressed the importance of a resilient economy that incorporates a fair, open, and competitive marketplace, and warned against excessive market concentration which threatens basic economic liberties, democratic accountability, and the welfare of workers, farmers, small businesses, startups, and consumers.

In the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, we held a hearing earlier this year on corporate power, specifically on the rise and concentration of corporate market power in the

United States and how it harms consumers, workers, and small businesses. In that hearing, we found that as business concentration has increased in the United States, the rise of concentrated corporate market power in the U.S. is associated with weak investment rates, lower productivity growth, and higher prices. Indeed, firms invest less per dollar of profit today now than they did in the second half of the 20th century, making labor less productive and suppressing wages.

Congress over the years has acted to promote competition, including legislation like the Lanham Act to regulate the registration and use of trademarks and protect from unfair competition. Further, the Lanham Act provides federal judicial protection against infringement for trademarks registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Specifically, the law provides federal causes of action for trademark dilution and several unfair competition claims, such as unregistered trademark infringement, false advertising, false endorsement, and false designation of origin.

I am concerned by cases where domestic, foreign, or multinational corporations are using the Lanham Act to suppress or restrict competition within the United States, particularly with small businesses. It is especially disheartening when those goods or services are dedicated to the health and safety of minority communities, where the impact of these cases will be felt most.

Our economy has traditionally been a powerful engine for innovation that has provided unmatched prosperity to millions. However, unprecedented corporate concentration and anticompetitive practices are preventing us from reaching our economic potential. I urge my colleagues to champion the Biden agenda for economic competitiveness and take steps to tackle pernicious behavior.

IN RECOGNITION OF HASSAN
JABER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the numerous outstanding contributions of Hassan Jaber to the communities of Wayne County, Michigan, as he retires after more than 40 years of service from ACCESS.

During his four decades at ACCESS, Hassan Jaber has been instrumental in shepherding its growth and expansion. He has been a leader in expanding ACCESS' programming to include more than one hundred platforms and ten locations to assist residents across Wayne County and southeastern Michigan. Hassan Jaber created partnerships locally and nationally to advocate for policy initiatives to fight bigotry, advance civil rights, and to create a better quality of life for immigrant and other vulnerable populations through

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